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ABSTRACT

Started 25 years ago by a group of parents in Madison, Wisconsin, the Red Caboose is one of the oldest independent day-care centers in the United States. This book recounts observations of the activities at the center for 1 year, exploring what makes a good day care center successful and what obstacles a center is up against. Interspersed among descriptions of the day-to-day experiences of the children and their caregivers are discussions of the effects on the center of financing, staffing, and public policy concerns. Chapter 1, "Fall: The Bumblebee Room," explores the day-to-day activities of the 3-year-old children. Chapter 2, "Winter: The Turtle Room," describes the activities of the children under 2 years old. Chapter 3, "Spring: The Elephant Room," follows the activities of the 2-year-old children. Chapter 4, "Summer: The Grasshopper Room," describes the activities of 4- and 5-year-old children. The book concludes with an epilogue discussing the challenges faced by child care centers such as Red Caboose, given the current political and social conditions in the United States. (LPP)

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